

Title: Regarding the proposal of the Task Force on inter-linking of rivers for the diversion of water from *Pamba* and *Achankovil* rivers of Kerala to Vaipar basin in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Union Government regarding the proposal under consideration of the Task Force on inter-linking of rivers for the diversion of water from *Pamba* and *Achankovil* rivers of Kerala to Vaipar basin in Tamil Nadu on the basis of a feasibility report on *Pamba-Achankovil-Vaipar* link prepared by the National Water Development Agency in June 1995. This has created a lot of hue and cry in the State of Kerala. The proposal is based on the wrong assumption that *Pamba-Achankovil* rivers have surplus waters and, therefore, 20 per cent of the water should be diverted to the benefit of the people in *Vaipar* River basin in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the fact is that the two rivers are already facing shortage of water to meet the requirements of the people in the basin spread over five districts of Kerala, that is, Alleppey, Patanamthitta, Kottayam, Kollam and Ernakulam, which means, almost one-fourth of the population of Kerala. Any attempt to inter-linking these rivers is going to adversely affect the interests of Kerala. It will also pollute the *Vembanad* Lake. I request the Union Government to drop this proposal. Otherwise, the entire Kuttanad area will be destroyed. Also, as per the water studies which has been carried out by the State Government, there is no excess water in these two rivers in Kerala.

Kuttanad area is facing acute drinking water problem. The natural beauty of this area will also be destroyed. I, therefore, request the Minister of Water Resources to put up this proposal to ensure that one-fourth of the population of Kerala is saved. Thank you.